

October 29, 2004

**Pre – Paid Shipping Available for Specimens Sent to MDCH**

Dear Colleagues:

We at MDCH Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) have been very successful in the past several years in securing grants from CDC to support our clinical microbiology partners. We are delighted to have received a one-time grant to assist you with the expense of submitting isolates of public health significance to the public health system for further testing.

We have used the funds to procure approximately 2000 prepaid US Postal Service (USPS) mailing labels for your use in shipping isolates to the BOL. These labels have been packed in Unit Forty-Two, used to ship bacterial and fungal culture isolates. The correct address for delivery to the BOL has been pre-printed. You need only pack your specimen appropriately in the material provided, fill in the box on the lower left hand corner of the label with your facility name and address, and call for a pick-up by your local post office. The package will be delivered by express mail, overnight, to the BOL at no expense to your facility. We suggest you contact your local post master in advance to determine their afternoon cut-off time to respond with same-day pick-up and to verify the site within your facility for the mail pick-up.

Units containing these prepaid labels are already being shipped to fill routine requests for Unit Forty-Two. As we normally ship no more than 5 units at a time, we anticipate the benefit of this grant will be shared with all clinical labs in Michigan over the next year. The labels will only be honored by USPS for shipping samples to MDCH; entry of any other addressee will result in the package being returned to the sender.

We proclaim at every national venue that public health cannot function without support for clinical laboratories. The ability of state and federal PH labs to quickly identify contaminated food and remove it from the marketplace depends upon you; and we appreciate that significant effort is required to report, subculture and forward isolates to us.. To an unheralded extent, you are the front line that protects the health of our nation.

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